
Anthony de Garr Robinson KC

Barrister

Call 1987 Silk 2006



Scope of Practice

• Arbitration • Banking and Financial Services • Company • Commercial Litigation • Breach of Confidence • Civil Fraud and Investigations • Insolvency and Reconstructions • Joint Venture and Partnership Disputes • Jurisdiction and Conflict of Laws • Media, Entertainment and Sport

Overview

Experienced in all forms of high value commercial litigation, international arbitration and advisory work, Tony de Garr Robinson KC has been ranked as a leading practitioner in many areas for over 25 years. He is currently ranked in Chambers UK 2023 as a leading silk in the fields of Banking & Finance, Commercial Dispute Resolution, Chancery: Commercial, Company, and Fraud: Civil.

In his early years of practice, he was a commercial chancery practitioner with specialisms in company and insolvency work. As a senior junior, he had a substantial commercial practice with significant cross border and arbitral experience. Now a heavyweight silk, he is brought in on an extremely wide range of high value cases that require intelligent advocacy. He is frequently instructed in international arbitrations.

Described by Legal 500 2023 as “*a brilliant silk*” and by Chambers Global 2023 as “*one of the pre-eminent fraud barristers out there*”, he is regularly instructed in large and complex commercial disputes and international arbitrations. Noted for his strategic vision, his detailed grasp of technically difficult cases and his skill in cross-examination, he combines intellectual rigour and creativity with a friendly and down-to-earth manner that sets clients at their ease – as the feedback from independently researched legal directories makes clear.

His leading position is reflected in a track record that includes many high profile cases in diverse areas, including those outside his established fields of practice. Several of these cases have been singled out as ‘cases of the year’ by major guides.

Recent cases include:

- **Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers and others v Tesco Stores Ltd [2022] EWCA Civ 978:** He represented Tesco in its successful appeal against a decision of Ellenbogen J, who had granted a permanent injunction to prevent Tesco firing and rehiring employees in order to remove a guaranteed, permanent pay supplement known as “retained pay”. See [Tesco Court of Appeal ruling: Retailer can proceed with 'fire and rehire' \(personneltoday.com\)](#)
- **Re Adrian Hyde, Richard Toone, Adrian Rabet (Joint Administrators of Betindex Limited) [2021] EWHC 1542 (Ch):** Following the collapse of a gambling company called Betindex Ltd, the company’s administrators sought directions as to the proper distribution of funds in a “client account” held on the terms of a trust intended to provide protection to its customers. He acted for a party representing the interests of a wide class of potential beneficiaries.
- **Re Prudential Assurance Company Ltd and Rothesay Life Plc [2020] EWCA Civ 1626:** He intervened in this landmark appeal on behalf of the Association of British Insurers. The appeal decided the approach the court should adopt on applications to sanction transfers of insurance business under Part VII of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. See <https://www.ftadviser.com/pensions/2020/12/03/court-of-appeal-gives-green-light-to-pru-s-12bn-annuity-sale/>.
- **Re Edwardian Group Limited [2019] 1 BCLC 171:** He represented the majority shareholders in an unfair prejudice petition relating to a £1bn hotel group. The case raised important issues concerning the unfair prejudice jurisdiction. After a 7 week trial, the claim against his clients was dismissed.
- **Bluewaters Communications v Bayerische Landesbank, Bernard Ecclestone and another (2018):** He was instructed by Bernie Ecclestone in a £500m-plus bribery claim alleging conspiracy and unlawful interference in relation to the 2006 takeover of the Formula One Group. This was one of *The Lawyer’s* Top 20 cases for 2018. See <https://www.lawyer-monthly.com/2018/03/ecclestone-formula-one-bribery-case-goes-to-trial/>.
- **The Libyan Investment Authority v Société Générale (2017):** He acted for Société Générale in a claim that the LIA was induced to buy over £2 billion in structured investment products by bribery of senior officials in the Gaddafi regime. This was one of *The Lawyer’s* Top 20 cases for 2017. See <https://www.ft.com/content/7dc88450-3094-11e7-9555-23ef563ecf9a>.

Examples of Recent Cases

Arbitration

Enjoys a growing reputation for his capable representation of sophisticated domestic and international clients in a range of disputes ... He is regularly instructed in international arbitrations in addition to appellate and High Court proceedings.

(Chambers UK 2022 – Banking & Finance)

He frequently acts as counsel in international arbitrations and has significant experience of enforcement

proceedings under the New York Convention. He also sits as an arbitrator.

Notable cases over the past few years include:-

Since 2021, he has been acting for a US private equity firm in a \$700m LCIA claim relating to the abortive acquisition of a division of a large listed company.

In 2020 and 2021, he acted for a US biotech company in an arbitral claim for several hundred million dollars and injunctive relief in relation to the threatened closure by one of its suppliers of a manufacturing facility in Spain. The dispute included proceedings before the Spanish courts in support of the arbitration.

He represented the claimants in an LCIA arbitration of a £100m claim for serious breaches of a joint venture arrangement regarding a large bank in an eastern European country, which was alleged to have resulted in a huge, involuntary dilution of the bank's majority shareholders.

He acted for an AIM-listed investment fund in an LCIA arbitration of a significant claim for damages against the fund's former investment manager for serious breaches of contractual and fiduciary duties. The manager counterclaimed for £112m+ in damages for wrongful termination of its appointment and a substantial profit share/carried interest payment allegedly due under the investment management agreement.

He acted an UNCITRAL arbitration of a claim relating to the financial and indemnity provisions contained in a series of transponder leases, under which transponders in satellites were used for television broadcast across Asia.

Palmerston Hotels and Resorts v Brocket Hall (UK) Limited and another [2016] EWHC 2018 (Comm) – He acted for the owner of a well-known golf club and luxury resort in an LCIA arbitration regarding the termination of a 35-year management contract. The dispute included a Commercial Court application for an injunction restraining the owner from terminating the contract pending the appointment of arbitrators.

He spent much of 2015 acting in a \$150m ICC arbitration in Germany concerning the acquisition of a bank in a CEE country, which subsequently collapsed into insolvency. The arbitration involved German law claims for wilful deceit, *culpa in contrahendo*, breach of contract and restitution (there were no English law issues).

Myriad Group AG v Oracle America Inc – In 2014, he acted for Oracle America in a \$120m+ UNCITRAL arbitration relating to Oracle's FRAND licensing regime for Java software. The dispute began with litigation in California and Delaware, but it ultimately resulted in arbitration in London, where he was lead counsel for Oracle. The claim and the arbitration were governed by US law.

Banking and Financial Services

Enjoys a growing reputation for his capable representation of sophisticated domestic and international clients in a range of disputes ... He is frequently instructed in significant commercial disputes and is familiar with cases centring around capital markets transactions, often when they involve asset-backed securities and structured products. He has undertaken a number of cases concerning LIBOR and bribery disputes. (Chambers UK 2022 – Banking & Finance)

He is experienced in all forms of banking and banking-related litigation, including (amongst other things) LIBOR-related claims, investment advisory claims, regulatory claims, and asset-backed security claims (including cashflow waterfall disputes and disputes regarding the proper operation of transaction documents and the actions that should have been taken by various office holders).

Over the years he has also advised various financial institutions on the appropriate tariff bases, fees and levies payable under the FSA and FCA Handbooks, both to the FCA and to the FSCS (Financial Services Compensation Scheme).

Notable cases over the past ten years include:-

He is currently acting for a bank on a £100+m claim by a large corporate customer for alleged breaches of various alleged implied terms, misrepresentation and lawful act economic duress.

Since 2021, he has acted for the client of a well-known banking and wealth management group on a claim for breach of its safe custody obligations.

Re Adrian Hyde, Richard Toone, Adrian Rabet (Joint Administrators of Betindex Limited) [2021] EWHC 1542 (Ch): following the collapse of a high profile gambling company called Betindex Ltd, the company's administrators sought directions as to the proper distribution of funds in a "client account" held on the terms of a trust intended to provide protection to its customers. He represented a party whom the court had appointed to represent the interests of a wide class of potential beneficiaries.

Re Prudential Assurance Company Ltd and Rothesay Life Plc [2021] Bus. L.R. 259 – In December 2020, the Court of Appeal overturned a decision by Snowden J refusing to sanction the proposed transfer of .£12.9 billion in annuity liabilities from The Prudential Assurance Company Limited (PAC) to Rothesay Life (Rothesay). This was the first time the Court of Appeal had considered how the court should deal with applications to sanction transfers of insurance business under Part VII of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. The Association of British Insurers (the ABI) is the voice of the insurance and long-term savings industry in the UK, and on its behalf he obtained permission to intervene in order to support the appeal. See [here](#).

Bluewaters Communications v Bayerische Landesbank, Bernard Ecclestone and another – He acted for Bernie Ecclestone in this highly publicized £500 million+ claim, alleging conspiracy and unlawful interference in relation to the 2006 takeover of the Formula One Group. The case arose from claims that a bid for a controlling stake was derailed by a corrupt agreement with the banker responsible for selling the controlling stake owned by Bayerische Landesbank. This was one of *The Lawyer's* Top 20 cases for 2018.

Libyan Investment Authority v Société Générale – In 2017, he acted for Société Générale in a claim based on allegations that the LIA was induced to invest more than £2 billion in various structured investment products as a result of bribery of senior Libyan officials in the Gaddafi regime. This was one of *The Lawyer's* Top 20 cases for 2017.

Erik Vik v Deutsche Bank – In 2017, he gave expert evidence on English law in a case brought by Deutsche Bank in Norway to enforce the \$234m judgment it had obtained in English proceedings (Deutsche Bank AG v Sebastian Holdings Inc. [2013] EWHC 3463 (Comm)).

Baylin v Canada Life International – In 2016, he acted for Canada Life in a claim by 84 investors who had invested in certain funds via life assurance wrappers provided by an offshore insurance company. His client was alleged to have breached various regulatory provisions and implied terms in the investors' policies regarding the selection and supervision of the funds.

RP Explorer Master Fund v Sanjay Malhotra and others – In 2015, he acted for a Portuguese bank in a US\$77m conspiracy claim relating to the issue of Global Depositary Receipts on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. In the course of these proceedings he obtained an order from the English court authorizing his client to disclose

information and documents that are subject to strict obligations of Portuguese banking secrecy – this was unprecedented as a matter of English law.

Aberdeen Global (Luxembourg) v Satyam Computer Services Limited – In 2012, he acted for the Aberdeen Asset Management Group in a \$150m claim against Satyam Computer Services Limited (now Mahindra Satyam). In 2009 the company was found to have overstated its accounts by over \$1bn (the ensuing public scandal became known as ‘India’s Enron’). Having invested substantial amounts in Satyam shares, Aberdeen issued proceedings in the Commercial Court claiming damages for fraud. Satyam challenged the jurisdiction and, after a four-day hearing, the parties settled the claim for \$68m.

See also the ‘Other Notable Cases Over the Years’ section of this CV.

Company

A highly regarded silk with a broad commercial chancery practice, which encompasses shareholder disputes and fraud claims. He appears in High Court, Appellate Court and international commercial arbitration proceedings. His extensive cross-border expertise extends across the BVI, the Bahamas, Dubai and Singapore.

‘Really very meticulous and does an incredible job. He gets into the detail and makes everything cast iron.’ (Chambers UK 2022 – Company)

He has acted in innumerable shareholder disputes, section 994 petitions and derivative actions (including some of the largest claims ever litigated in England). He is often involved in company claims against directors and other fiduciaries and in corporate joint venture disputes. In his wider commercial practice, his knowledge and experience of company law enables him to identify company law issues that other practitioners might miss.

He also frequently acts in disputes relating to large and complex corporate transactions. In this context he has considerable experience, not only of warranty and indemnity claims, but also of the provisions and principles (including accountancy principles) to be applied in determining or adjusting the consideration payable for the target company.

Notable cases over the past ten years include:-

He is currently acting on a claim to rectify a sale and purchase agreement intended to give effect an internal reorganisation of a restaurant and hotel group of companies.

Re Adrian Hyde, Richard Toone, Adrian Rabet (Joint Administrators of Betindex Limited) [2021] EWHC 1542 (Ch) – Following the collapse of a high profile gambling company called Betindex Ltd, the company’s administrators sought directions as to the proper distribution of funds in a “client account” held on the terms of a trust intended to provide protection to its customers. He acted for the party whom the court had appointed to represent the interests of a wide class of potential beneficiaries.

Shandong Offshore Investment (HK) Co Ltd v Johan Fredrik Andresen – Between 2019 and 2021, he acted for the defendant in a derivative claim brought against a company director for negligence. The claim was ultimately dismissed.

Re Edwardian Group Limited [2019] 1 B.C.L.C. 171 – He acted for the majority shareholders in this unfair prejudice petition relating to a £1 billion hotel group. After a seven-week trial, the claim against his clients was dismissed. The case dealt with numerous issues concerning the unfair prejudice jurisdiction, including the approach to be adopted

towards family trust shareholders where a quasi-partnership is alleged and, where a buyout order is made, backdating the valuation date and applying a discount for minority holding or sharing a control premium. (At an earlier hearing in the same case, he had obtained an order striking out some of the evidence given by the petitioner's expert: [2017] EWHC 3112 (Ch)).

Novatrust Ltd v Kea Investments Ltd – In 2016, he acted for the claimant in an appeal from a decision dismissing its claims regarding a £130 million joint venture on jurisdictional grounds ([2014] EWHC 4061 (Ch)). Among other things, the appeal raised fundamental questions regarding the nature of derivative proceedings, as well as the jurisdiction of the English court to grant declarations and to authorize a shareholder to bring proceedings on behalf of a BVI company.

Fern Advisors Limited v Adrian Burford and others [2014] BPIR 581 – He acted for a private equity company which alleged that its former chief executive had dishonestly misappropriated more than £12m from it. After a two-day hearing, he obtained summary judgment on this fraud claim, the Judge finding that the chief executive had forged bank statements, letters and other documents and had even impersonated Fern's auditors online in order to conceal what he had done. As well as awarding damages and compound interest, the Court declared that Fern was entitled to an equitable charge over a £9 million country estate that the defendant had bought with its money.

Antonio Gramsci Shipping Corp v Recoletos Ltd [2014] 1 BCLC 581; [2013] 4 All ER 157 and [2013] 2 Lloyd's Rep. 295 (Court of Appeal) and [2012] 2 Lloyd's Rep 365 (Teare J) – Acting for a defendant in a £100m shipping fraud claim, he successfully challenged the jurisdiction of the court after a five-day hearing on the basis that it is not possible to establish this under the Brussels Regulation by piercing the corporate veil. The claimants appealed, effectively arguing that the corporate veil should be pierced under European law. The appeal was dismissed, as was the claimants' application for permission to appeal to the Supreme Court.

See also the 'Other Notable Cases Over the Years' section of this CV.

Commercial Litigation

A highly regarded silk with a broad commercial chancery practice, which encompasses shareholder disputes and fraud claims. He appears in High Court, Appellate Court and international commercial arbitration proceedings. His extensive cross-border expertise extends across the BVI, the Bahamas, Dubai and Singapore.

'One of the pre-eminent fraud barristers out there. He provides forensic insights into cases.' (**Chambers UK 2022 – Commercial Dispute Resolution**)

He enjoys an extensive commercial practice, from straightforward contract and tort cases to esoteric disputes involving complex suites of contracts, economic torts, fiduciary allegations and proprietary claims.

Equally at home in the Commercial Court and the Chancery Division, he often acts in offshore cases. His range of expertise is unusually wide, which allows him to identify and deal with issues that others might miss – for example, company, and insolvency, trust or property law issues.

He has experience of a wide range of commercial transactions, including for example CDO transactions, commercial leasing transactions, corporate acquisitions, derivatives (including swaps), all forms of financing transactions, fund management contracts, software and other IT licenses (including FRAND licenses), mobile virtual network operator contracts, PFI transactions and securitizations.

Notable cases over the past ten years include:-

Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers and others v Tesco Stores Ltd [2022] EWCA Civ 978 – He represented Tesco in its successful appeal against a decision of Ellenbogen J, who had granted a permanent injunction to prevent Tesco dismissing employees in order to remove a guaranteed, permanent pay supplement known as “retained pay”. Discharging that injunction, the Court (1) held that the employees’ right to retained pay would last only as long as the contract in which it was contained, (2) refused to imply any term preventing Tesco exercising its right to give its employees notice of termination so as to remove retained pay, (3) rejected USDAW’s alternative case in estoppel; and (4) held that the Judge should not have issued an injunction in any event. See [here](#).

Re Adrian Hyde, Richard Toone, Adrian Rabet (Joint Administrators of Betindex Limited) [2021] EWHC 1542 (Ch) – Following the collapse of a high profile gambling company called Betindex Ltd, the company’s administrators sought directions as to the proper distribution of funds in a “client account” held on the terms of a trust intended to provide protection to its customers. He acted for the party whom the court had appointed to represent the interests of a wide class of potential beneficiaries.

Dennis & Anor v Spink Construction Ltd – He represented Ron Dennis, the former owner of the McLaren Formula One racing team and one of the UK’s richest men, in a complex series of claims and counterclaims concerning a £100 million+ project to acquire an estate and develop it into one of the finest country houses in England.

Bluewaters Communications v Bayerische Landesbank, Bernard Ecclestone and another – He was instructed by Bernie Ecclestone in this £500m-plus bribery claim alleging conspiracy and unlawful interference in relation to the 2006 takeover of the Formula One Group. This was also one of *The Lawyer’s* Top 20 cases for 2018.

Macdonald Hotels Ltd v Bank of Scotland – He acted for Bank of Scotland in a £138m claim by a customer alleging that his client had breached a duty of good faith by not lending a sufficient amount to maintain its core business and by requiring it to buy interest rate caps. The case also raised claims of LIBOR misrepresentation.

Libyan Investment Authority v Société Générale – In 2017, he acted for Société Générale in a claim based on allegations that the LIA was induced to invest more than £2 billion in various structured investment products as a result of bribery of senior Libyan officials in the Gaddafi regime. This was one of *The Lawyer’s* Top 20 cases for 2017.

2 The Door Ltd v The Financial Times Limited and others – In 2015 and 2016, he represented *The Financial Times* in a claim alleging that it had conspired with *The Guardian* and others to unlawfully injure the claimant. The unlawful means which they are alleged to have used included misuse of confidential information and breach of contract.

Baylin v Canada Life International – In 2016, he acted for Canada Life in a claim by 84 investors who had invested in certain funds via life assurance wrappers provided by an offshore insurance company. His client was alleged to have breached various regulatory provisions and implied terms in the investors’ policies regarding the selection and supervision of the funds.

Wabtec UK Holdings Ltd v Baron Tanlaw and others – In 2015 and 2016, he acted for the sellers of an international rail industry manufacturing group in a series of warranty claims by the purchaser, a subsidiary of the Westinghouse group. The purchaser claimed that, at the time of the sale, the target group was in breach of various large supply contracts, which were governed by the laws of several jurisdictions. The claims raised interesting issues of foreign law, contractual construction and valuation.

RP Explorer Master Fund v Sanjay Malhotra – In 2015, he acted for the bank in this \$77m claim relating to the issue

of Global Depository Receipts on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. The claimant alleged that the bank had facilitated a conspiracy to obtain \$200m from investors by means of various deceits concerning an allegedly fictitious project to construct an oil refinery in India.

Novatrust Ltd v Kea Investments Ltd BVIHC (Com) 2014/46; [2014] EWHC 4061 (Ch) – He acted in this cross-border £130m joint venture dispute involving proceedings in England (commenced by Novatrust) and the BVI (commenced by Kea). There were jurisdiction challenges and appeals in both proceedings.

Antonio Gramsci Shipping Corp v Recoletos Ltd [2014] 1 BCLC 581 – Acting for a defendant in a £100m shipping fraud claim, he successfully challenged the jurisdiction after a five-day hearing, on the basis that it was not possible to establish this under the Brussels Regulation by piercing the corporate veil. The claimants' appeal, effectively arguing that the corporate veil should be pierced under European law, was dismissed, as was their application for permission to appeal to the Supreme Court.

See also the 'Other Notable Cases Over the Years' section of this CV.

Breach of Confidence

A much-liked silk whose commercial chancery practice covers a wide array of matters, including appellate proceedings, offshore litigation, and insolvency proceedings. He is also noted for his work in civil fraud and is appreciated for his calm and personable approach. (Chambers Global 2021– Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery)

He has acted in a number of cases involving the misuse of commercially valuable confidential information and has also acted in personal privacy cases.

Notable cases over the past ten years include:-

2 The Door Ltd v The Financial Times Limited and others – In 2015 and 2016, he represented *The Financial Times* in a claim alleging that it had conspired with *The Guardian* and others to unlawfully injure the claimant. The unlawful means which they were alleged to have used included misuse of confidential information.

RP Explorer Master Fund v Sanjay Malhotra and others – In 2015, he acted for a Portuguese bank in a US\$77m conspiracy claim relating to the issue of Global Depository Receipts on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. In the course of these proceedings, he obtained an order from the English court authorizing his client to disclose information and documents that are subject to strict obligations of Portuguese banking secrecy – this was unprecedented as a matter of English law.

Geoffrey Logue and another v Project Grande (Guernsey) Ltd and others – In 2013, he acted for the Candy brothers and their associated companies in a £12m conspiracy claim. This hotly disputed case related to the One Hyde Park development and the unlawful means alleged included breach of confidence and the torts of abuse of process and unlawful interference.

See also the 'Other Notable Cases Over the Years' section of this CV.

Civil Fraud and Investigations

'One of the pre-eminent fraud barristers out there. He provides forensic insights into cases.' (Chambers Global 2022 – Dispute Resolution; Commercial)

Runs a busy commercial chancery practice and takes on significant fraud litigation and arbitration work, much of which originates offshore in regions such as the Caribbean and the Middle East. He has dealt with the full swathe of allegations including conspiracy, deceit and breach of contract.

He has acted in countless fraud and conspiracy cases over the years and has huge experience of the various forms of damages, restitutionary and proprietary claims to which such cases give rise, including tracing claims made by way of ancillary proceedings in other countries.

He also has great experience of freezing orders, search and seizure orders, confidentiality/privacy orders, and third party disclosure orders, both in England and in numerous offshore jurisdictions such as Jersey, the BVI, the Cayman Islands, Bermuda and the Bahamas.

Notable cases over the past ten years include:-

Dennis & Anor v Spink Construction Ltd & Ors – He represented Ron Dennis, the former owner of the McLaren Formula One racing team and one of the UK's richest men, in a complex fraud claim concerning a £100 million+ project to acquire an estate and develop it into one of the finest country houses in England.

Bluewaters Communications v Bayerische Landesbank, Bernard Ecclestone and another – He was instructed by Bernie Ecclestone in this £500m-plus bribery claim alleging conspiracy and unlawful interference in relation to the 2006 takeover of the Formula One Group. This was one of *The Lawyer's* Top 20 cases for 2018.

Macdonald Hotels Ltd v Bank of Scotland – He acted for Bank of Scotland in a novel £138m claim by a customer alleging that his client had breached a duty of good faith by not lending a sufficient amount to maintain its core business and by requiring it to buy interest rate caps. The case also raised claims of LIBOR misrepresentation.

Libyan Investment Authority v Société Générale (Teare J) – In 2017, he acted for Société Générale in a claim based on allegations that the LIA was induced to invest more than £2 billion in various structured investment products as a result of bribery of senior Libyan officials in the Gaddafi regime. This was one of *The Lawyer's* Top 20 cases for 2017.

2 The Door Ltd v The Financial Times Limited and others – In 2015 and 2016, he acted for *The Financial Times* in a claim alleging that it had conspired with *The Guardian* and others to unlawfully injure the claimant.

RP Explorer Master Fund v Sanjay Malhotra and others – In 2015, he acted for a Portuguese bank in a US\$77m conspiracy claim relating to the issue of Global Depositary Receipts on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. In the course of these proceedings, he obtained an order from the English court authorizing his client to disclose information and documents that are subject to strict obligations of Portuguese banking secrecy – this was unprecedented as a matter of English law.

See also the 'Other Notable Cases Over the Years' section of this CV.

Insolvency and Reconstructions

A much-liked silk whose commercial chancery practice covers a wide array of matters, including appellate proceedings, offshore litigation and insolvency proceedings. (Chambers Global 2021 – Commercial Chancery)

He has extensive and far-reaching experience of all kinds of insolvency and restructuring-related work. This often arises within the context or broader commercial disputes, where his unusually broad experience allows him to identify and deal with insolvency-related issues that others might miss.

Notable cases over the past ten years include:-

Re Adrian Hyde, Richard Toone, Adrian Rabet (Joint Administrators of Betindex Limited) [2021] EWHC 1542 (Ch) – Following the collapse of a high profile gambling company called Betindex Ltd, the company’s administrators sought directions as to the proper distribution of funds in a “client account” held on the terms of a trust which was intended to provide protection to its customers in the event of its insolvency. He acted for the party whom the court had appointed to represent the interests of a wide class of potential beneficiaries.

Kea Investments Ltd v Novatrust Ltd – In 2014 and 2015, he acted for the respondent to a BVI winding up application, in which he challenged the jurisdiction of the BVI court to make a just and equitable winding up order in respect of a BVI company. He also acted in the subsequent appeal to that jurisdiction challenge, in relation to which the applicant agreed terms for the appeal to be allowed.

In 2015, he acted for a major bank in relation to an application in the administration of a group of companies, to which it had lent substantial sums. The controlling shareholder in the group made serious allegations against the bank and the administrators, including that they had conspired to force the group to go into administration.

In 2013 and 2014, he represented a major bank in a large number of administration petitions against a group of companies, which had borrowed £250m, as well as entering into a substantial interest swap with it, on the security of various portfolios of ground rent assets. In an attempt to prevent enforcement, the defendants made serious allegations against the bank, including LIBOR rigging and conspiracy to injure by unlawful means.

See also the ‘Other Notable Cases Over the Years’ section of this CV.

Joint Venture and Partnership Disputes

‘A class act – he gets into the detail, considers all the angles and gets the right result.’ (Legal 500 2022 – Company and Partnership)

A popular silk with a broad practice that includes banking, shareholder disputes, insolvency and partnership matters.

A leading silk in the field of Company law, he has acted in innumerable shareholder disputes, section 994 petitions and derivative actions involving joint venture companies, and is frequently instructed in corporate joint venture disputes. In his wider commercial practice, his knowledge and experience of company and partnership litigation enables him to identify issues which other practitioners might miss.

Notable cases over the past ten years include:-

Re Edwardian Group Limited [2018] EWHC 1715 (Ch) – He acted for the majority shareholders in this unfair prejudice petition relating to a £1 billion hotel group – after a seven-week trial, the claim against his clients was dismissed. The case dealt with numerous important issues concerning the unfair prejudice jurisdiction, including the approach to be adopted towards family trust shareholders where a quasi-partnership is alleged and, where a buyout order is made, backdating the valuation date and applying a discount for minority holding or sharing a control premium.

Novatrust Ltd v Kea Investments Ltd – In 2016, he acted for the claimant in a successful appeal from a decision dismissing its claims regarding a £130 million joint venture on jurisdictional grounds ([2014] EWHC 4061 (Ch)). Among other things, the appeal raised fundamental questions regarding the nature of derivative proceedings, as well as the jurisdiction of the English court to grant declarations and to authorize a shareholder to bring proceedings on behalf of a BVI company.

He acted for the claimants in an LCIA arbitration of a £100m claim for serious breaches of a joint venture arrangement regarding a large bank in an eastern European country, which was alleged to have resulted in a huge, involuntary dilution of the bank's majority shareholders.

See also the 'Company' section and the 'Other Notable Cases Over the Years' sections of this CV.

Jurisdiction and Conflict of Laws

A much-liked silk whose commercial chancery practice covers a wide array of matters, including appellate proceedings, offshore litigation and insolvency proceedings. He is also noted for his work in civil fraud and is appreciated for his calm and personable approach.

'He remains a go-to silk for banking and commercial matters. He's fantastic – hard-working, incredibly intelligent, and a great team player with excellent judgement. He's never been known to put in a bad performance. He's a thoroughly nice human being.' (Chambers UK 2022 – Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery)

Runs a busy commercial chancery practice and takes on significant fraud litigation and arbitration work, much of which originates offshore in regions such as the Caribbean and the Middle East. He has dealt with the full swathe of allegations including conspiracy, deceit and breach of contract.

'He is very quick and clever.' 'A robust advocate.' 'A phenomenally clever barrister who is forensic and precise.' (Chambers UK 2021 – Fraud: Civil)

A popular silk with a broad practice that includes banking, shareholder disputes, insolvency and partnership matters. He is an excellent litigator who takes a cerebral approach to legal problems. Sources commend him for his offshore litigation and international arbitration work.

'He's a fantastic advocate who's very bright and has fantastic client-handling skills.' (Chambers Global 2020 – Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery)

Frequently seen in High Court and appellate proceedings, offshore litigation and international arbitration, he is active in company, fraud and banking work.

'He has shown great skill in getting to grips with complex accounting issues and is a good team player.' 'He's extremely bright and good on his feet.' (Chambers Global 2018 – Dispute Resolution: Commercial)

He has a highly international practice and has amassed substantial experience of multinational litigation and arbitration. He has acted in many jurisdictional disputes and forum challenges and regularly deals with conflicts issues and cases involving expert evidence of foreign law, including the law of the Netherlands, France, Germany, India, Iran, Japan, the Lebanon, Russia, Spain and Switzerland, as well as Sharia'a law.

He has acted or advised in man' cases in offshore jurisdictions, including Bermuda, the Bahamas, the BVI, the Cayman Islands, the Channel Islands, Panama and the United States. Over the years, he has been admitted as a member of the Bar in the Bahamas and the BVI, and has been registered as a foreign lawyer to appear before the Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC) and as an advocate in the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts (DIFC).

He has also advised governments on state immunity and related issues, and acted as an English law expert in proceedings in Switzerland, the United States and Norway.

Notable cases over the past ten years include:-

Novatrust Ltd v Kea Investments Ltd – In 2016, he acted for the claimant in a successful appeal from a decision dismissing its claims regarding a £130 million joint venture on jurisdictional grounds ([2014] EWHC 4061 (Ch)). Among other things, the appeal raised fundamental questions regarding the nature of derivative proceedings, as well as the jurisdiction of the English court to grant declarations and to authorize a shareholder to bring proceedings on behalf of a BVI company.

He spent much of 2015 acting in a \$150m ICC arbitration in Germany concerning the acquisition of a bank in a CEE country, which subsequently collapsed into insolvency. The arbitration involved German law claims for wilful deceit, *culpa in contrahendo*, breach of contract and restitution (there were no English law issues).

Myriad Group AG v Oracle America Inc – In 2014, he acted for Oracle America in a \$120m+ UNCITRAL arbitration relating to Oracle's FRAND licensing regime for Java software. The dispute began with litigation in California and Delaware, but it ultimately resulted in arbitration in London, where he was lead counsel for Oracle. The claim and the arbitration were governed by US law.

Antonio Gramsci Shipping Corp v Reoletos Ltd [2014] 1 BCLC 581; [2013] 4 All ER 157 and [2013] 2 Lloyd's Rep. 295 (Court of Appeal) and [2012] 2 Lloyd's Rep 365 (Teare J) – Acting for a defendant in a £100m shipping fraud claim, he successfully challenged the jurisdiction of the court after a five-day hearing on the basis that it is not possible to establish this under the Brussels Regulation by piercing the corporate veil. The claimants appealed, effectively arguing that the corporate veil should be pierced under European law. The appeal was dismissed, as was the claimants' application for permission to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Aberdeen Global (Luxembourg) v Satyam Computer Services Limited – In 2012, he acted for the Aberdeen Asset Management Group in a \$150m claim against Satyam Computer Services Limited (now Mahindra Satyam). In 2009, the company was found to have overstated its accounts by over \$1bn (the ensuing public scandal became known as ‘India’s Enron’). Having invested substantial amounts in Satyam shares, Aberdeen issued proceedings in the Commercial Court claiming damages for fraud. Satyam challenged the jurisdiction and, after a four-day hearing, the parties settled the claim for \$68m.

See also the ‘Other Notable Cases Over the Years’ section of this CV.

Media, Entertainment and Sport

‘Utterly meticulous in his preparation.’ ‘Anthony is an impressive strategist with a keen eye for detail, who’s great at finding the pressure points in a case.’ (Chambers Global 2020 – Dispute Resolution: Commercial)

As a heavyweight commercial silk, he has acted over the course of his career in a number of important matters in the TMC sector, during the course of which he has gained an extensive knowledge of both the operation of complex IT and communications systems, and the complexities of the associated regulatory regimes.

Notable cases in the last ten years include:-

The Door Ltd v The Financial Times Limited and others – In 2015 and 2016, he acted for *The Financial Times* in a claim alleging that it conspired with *The Guardian* and others to unlawfully injure the claimant.

Re Atex Group Ltd – In 2014, he acted for the respondent in an unfair prejudice petition relating to a large media company whose principal business is digital content management, advertising and distribution systems.

See also the ‘Other Notable Cases Over the Years’ section of this CV.

Other Notable Cases Over the Years

Ash & Newman v Creative Devices Research [1991] BCLC 403 This case decided whether an administrative receiver should be restrained by injunction from dealing in property which is subject to a right of pre-emption.

Re Freudiana Holdings Limited In 1992/3, he acted for the respondent in one of the longest ever unfair prejudice petitions, the trial of which occupied over a year. The respondent succeeded on every significant issue. Ultimately, the petitioner made himself bankrupt and the respondent obtained an order for the costs of the trial (summarily assessed at £2m). These costs were recovered by obtaining a third costs order against the petitioner’s pension fund, which had funded the petition.

Knight v Lawrence [1993] BCLC 215 This case established that an LPA receiver appointed by a creditor owes a duty of care to a guarantor of the debtor.

Re Mineral Resources Limited [1999] 1 All ER 746 This case considered whether a waste management licence can be disclaimed by a liquidator as onerous property under the Insolvency Act.

Corporacion Nacional del Cobre de Chile v Sogemin Metals Ltd [1997] 1 WLR 1396 This case established that contributory negligence cannot be a defence to a claim based on bribery.

Arbuthnot Latham Bank Ltd v Trafalgar Holdings Ltd [1998] 1 W.L.R. 1426 and Securum Finance Ltd v Ashton (No.1) [2001] Ch. 291

Two strike out applications regarding the same claim, each based on delay (Court of Appeal).

Dardana Limited v Yukos Oil Company [2002] 2 Lloyd's Rep 261 (Commercial Court) and [2002] 2 Lloyd's Rep 326 (Court of Appeal) A case regarding the enforcement of an arbitral award pursuant to the New York Convention.

Bowthorpe Holdings Ltd v Hills [2003] 1 BCLC 226 A joint venture case relating to an offshore fund management operation.

Christopher Evans v SMG [2003] All ER (D) 348 He acted for Virgin Radio and SMG in the widely publicised claim brought by Chris Evans.

Jewson v Kelly [2004] 1 Lloyd's Rep 205 A Court of Appeal case on the proper scope and effect of the fitness for purpose/merchantable quality terms implied under the Sale of Goods Act.

Marketmaker Ltd v CMC Group Pie [2004] All ER (D) 99 Acting for the defendant, he successfully discharged injunctions that the claimants had obtained without notice. He subsequently obtained an order that the claimants pay indemnity costs on the basis (amongst other things) that they had breached their duty of full and frank disclosure. He ultimately secured a stay of the entire proceedings on the basis of the claimants' abusive conduct.

He acted for the producers of "**Riverdance - The Show**" in an action brought by Michael Flatley.

He acted for Tony Visconti in a claim to ownership of the many recordings which Tony Visconti had produced for Marc Bolan and T. Rex.

Catalyst Investment Group Ltd v Lewinsohn [2010] Ch 218 A case deciding that it was not open to the court to interpret and apply the Brussels Regulation reflexively so as to enable it to exercise a discretion to stay proceedings on traditional forum conveniens or lis alibi pendens grounds.

Giedo Van der Garde BV v Force India Formula One Team [2010] EWHC 2373 (QB) – acting for the claimant racing driver, he succeeded in obtaining substantial damages for breach of contract notwithstanding the absence of proof of financial loss. The case as a notable authority on performance interest damages and Wrotham Park damages.

Gregory Projects (Halifax) Ltd v Tenpin (Halifax) Ltd [2010] 2 All E.R. (Comm) 646 A dispute about whether proposed tenant under a conditional agreement for lease from a developer of a large commercial development was entitled to terminate the agreement and thereby avoid taking the lease once the development was complete.

STV v ITV – In 2011, he acted for STV in their disputes with ITV plc regarding the manner in which the affairs of ITV Network Ltd, the company in which they were all shareholders and which operated the Channel 3 network, were being conducted.

Pell Frischmann Engineering Ltd v Bow Valley Ltd [2011] 1 WLR 2370 – For several years, he worked with Jersey Advocates on a claim in Jersey involving the abuse of confidential information relating to a valuable oilfield development contract in Iran. At trial, damages were awarded for abuse of confidence, while in the Court of Appeal it was held that negotiation/ license fee damages (i.e. damages on a Wrotham Park basis) should have been awarded. Subsequently, he appeared on his clients' successful appeal to the Privy Council.

What the Directories Say

"Tony is so thorough; he always makes sure he has thought about absolutely everything." (Chambers UK - Company Client 2024)

"He has an exceptional mind." (Chambers UK - Civil Fraud 2024)

"A formidable advocate. He leaves no stone unturned and always delivers." (Chambers UK - Commercial Dispute Resolution 2024)

'One of the pre-eminent fraud barristers out there. He provides forensic insight into cases.' (Chambers Global and Chambers UK – Dispute Resolution: Commercial)

'A clear-thinking barrister who really gets stuck into a case.' (Chambers Global and Chambers UK 2022 – Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery 2023)

'Anthony is excellent, he is very commercial in his advice as well as being measured but brave in his advice to clients, which is incredibly helpful.' (Chambers UK – Banking & Finance)

'A brilliant silk' (Legal 500 – Banking and Finance)

'An outstanding advocate. Huge intellect, ferocious work ethic and great charm combine to make Tony one of the leading advocates at the commercial bar.' (The Legal 500 - Fraud: Civil 2022)

'He is a phenomenally clever barrister but just has this amazing personality and endless energy. He never gives up. He sees every angle and is forensic in a way that I've never seen before.' (Chambers & Partners - Banking & Finance 2021)

'The advocate I would most like to have in the trenches next to me on the most demanding matters.' (Legal 500 - Fraud: Civil 2020)

'One of the pre-eminent fraud barristers out there. He provides forensic insights into cases.' (Chambers Global and Chambers UK – Dispute Resolution: Commercial 2022)

'He is incredibly hard-working and incisive. A first-class operator. He has excellent client-handling skills.' (Chambers UK – Banking & Finance 2022)

'Really very meticulous and does an incredible job. He gets into the detail and makes everything cast iron.' (Chambers UK – Company 2022)

'He provides forensic insights into his cases and has an enormous brain which holds all the complex facts and organises them to be understandable for the court.' (Chambers UK – Fraud: Civil 2022)

'An exceptional advocate in court, does not get flustered, always able to find a good analogy to support an argument when dealing with a judge's questions' (Legal 500 – Banking and Finance 2022)

'A class act – he gets into the detail, considers all the angles and gets the right result.' (Legal 500 – Company and Partnership 2022)

'Has a real eye for detail, is very approachable and is a strong advocate.' *'He always delivers a fantastic performance and is incredibly bright and hard-working.'*

'Tony has shown great skill in getting to grips with complex accounting issues, and he's a good team player.' **(Chambers Global and Chambers UK – Commercial Dispute Resolution 2021)**

'He remains a go-to silk for banking and commercial matters. He's fantastic: hard-working, incredibly intelligent and a great team player with excellent judgement. He's never been known to put in a bad performance. He's a thoroughly nice human being.' **(Chambers Global and Chambers UK – Commercial Chancery Dispute Resolution 2021)**

'He always delivers a fantastic performance and is incredibly bright and hard-working.' **(Chambers Global and Chambers UK – Commercial Chancery Dispute Resolution 2021)**

'He doesn't go over the top yet stands and fights his corner, telling the judge that he disagrees in a measured way.' **(Chambers UK – Banking & Finance 2021)**

'A phenomenally clever barrister who sees every angle and never gives up. He is exacting, precise and at the same time deeply charming.' **(Chambers UK – Company 2021)**

'He is very quick and clever.' *'A robust advocate.'* *'A phenomenally clever barrister who is forensic and precise.'* **(Chambers UK – Fraud: Civil 2021)**

'Extremely rigorous in his approach to analysing the law and the evidence, and a persuasive advocate.' **(Legal 500 – Banking and Finance 2021)**

'He is a true expert in company law disputes. He has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the law and great judgement.' **(Legal 500 – Company and Partnership 2021)**

'When you go into court, you know that he will have thought through every angle and will be as prepared as one can possibly be – phenomenally clever, but down to earth and a great a team player.' **(Legal 500 – Fraud: Civil 2021)**

'Utterly meticulous in his preparation.' *'Anthony is an impressive strategist with a keen eye for detail, who's great at finding the pressure points in a case.'* **(Chambers Global and Chambers UK – Commercial Dispute Resolution 2020)**

'Very clever and brilliant on paper - his written work is top-notch.' *'He has an outstandingly forensic mind and is academically one of the best lawyers out there.'* **(Chambers UK – Banking & Finance 2020)**

'Extremely responsive and someone who offers the most practical legal advice.' **(Chambers UK – Company 2020)**

'He's very charming, which can be dangerous for the opposition.' *'He doesn't lose the judge, even with a mountain of detail, as he picks and selects the right points that demonstrate where the merits of a case lie.'* **(Chambers UK – Fraud: Civil 2020)**

'Outstanding – a leading advocate in the area of banking litigation.' **(Legal 500 – Banking & Finance 2020)**

'He is an outstanding company silk.' **(Legal 500 – Company and Partnership 2020)**

'A fantastic advocate with fantastic client handling skills, who's a real team player.' **(Chambers UK 2019 – Company)**

'He remains a go-to silk for banking and commercial matters. He's fantastic - hard-working, incredibly intelligent, and a great team player with excellent judgement.' **(Chambers Global 2021 – Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery)**

'His legal expertise, eloquence and diligence stand out, and the quality of his work is simply superb.' *'Has a keen eye for detail, and is great at finding the pressure points.'*

(Chambers Global 2019 – Dispute Resolution: Commercial)

'Works incredibly hard, and because he does a wide range of work he's really good at taking concepts from one area and applying them to others. He's just a superb litigator, and charming with it.' (Chambers Global 2019 – Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery)

Publications

- **Article** on the principles governing the transfer of insurance business to other insurers ("Over to you?", New Law Journal, Issue 2 & 9 April 2021).
 - 'The Legal Labyrinths of Leverage' (Legal Week, 16th July 2009)
 - 'Wrotham Park damages' (Commercial Litigation Journal, January 2008).
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Awards



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